

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, DA

SUBJ: EC SUMMIT DINNER IN PARIS

SUMMARY. DANISH PRIMIN IS NOT EXPECTED TO RAISE ANY PARTICULAR ISSUE AT PARIS DINNER. DANES DO NOT FAVOR A FULL SUMMIT UNLESS THERE IS PROMISE OF CONCRETE PROGRESS ON SUCH ISSUES AS MONETARY, ENERGY, AND AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM AND ECONCOUNCS SAW FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS JENS CHRISTENSEN AND POLITICAL DIRECTOR OTTO BORCH SPEARATELY SEPTEMBER 13 FOR DISCUSSION
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UPCOMING EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DINNER. BORCH SAID

DINNER IS TO BE HIGHLY INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED. THERE IS NO AGENDA, BUT FRENCH HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO ASCERTAIN THROUGH A GENERAL DISCUSSION WHETHER THE BASIS EXISTS FOR AN EC SUMMIT THIS FALL. THE TALKS WILL BEGIN AT SIX AND CARRY ON THROUGH THE SUBSEQUENT DINNER. THE DANES, BORCH SAID, HAVE NO PARTICULAR POINTS OF THEIR OWN TO RAISE.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHRISTENSEN SAID THAT HE EXPECTS PRIMIN HARTLING TO TAKE FIRM POSITION AT DINNER THAT DENMARK WOULD FAVOR SUMMIT MEETING IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER ONLY IF THERE IS PROMISE IN ADVANCE THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THREE AREAS OF COMMUNITY CONCERN: MONETARY MATTERS (EXCHANGE RATES AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS); ENERGY; AND AGRICULTURE. HE AGREED WITH US THAT POSSIBILITIES DID NOT LOOK TOO GOOD FOR PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS AND SAID THAT THEREFORE THE DANISH POSITION REALLY IS THAT IT WOULD PREFER NO SUMMIT MEETING THIS YEAR. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT MAKING LONG-RANGE GOALS SUCH AS EUROPEAN UNION THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF A SUMMIT. GIVEN THE PRESENT SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION IN DENMARK, AS WELL AS IN SOME OTHER EC COUNTRIES, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE DANISH PUBLIC WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND A FOCUS ON SUCH IDEALISTIC, AND PRESENTLY UNREALISTIC, GOALS, HE NOTED A RECENT GALLUP POLL WHICH, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE OCTOBER 1972 EC REFERENDUM, SHOWED A MAJORITY (53 PER CENT) OF DANES SAYING THAT THEY WOULD NOT NOW VOTE FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. WHILE HE WAS CONVENCED THAT THE POLL RESULT REPRESENTED ONLY A TRANSITORY EMOTIONAL RESPONSE BY DANES TO THEIR PRESENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, HE THOUGH THAT THE LONGER-RANGE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE DAMAGED BY A SUMMIT FOCUS ON THEORETICAL ISSUES.

3. CHRISTENSEN SAW THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM AT THE PARIS DINNER AS BEING THAT OF THE OTHER EIGHT FINDING A WAY FOR NOT DISCOURAGING GISCARD'S INITIATIVE SINCE HE IS THE FIRST FRENCH PRESIDENT IN SOME TIME WHO IS CONFIDENTIAL

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EUROPEAN-MINDED. HE KNEW THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ALSO FELT THE SAME CONCERNS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SHARING THE DANISH VIEW THAT A SUMMIT SHOULD BE HELD ONLY IF CONCRETE RESULTS WERE POSSIBLE. CHRISTENSEN THOUGHT THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THIS DILEMMA WOULD BE FOR THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO TELL GISCARD THAT IF, IN EARLY NOVEMBER, HE FELT THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TO PERMIT A FRUITFUL DISCUSSION ON

CONCRETE SUBJECTS (PREFERABLY, FROM THE DANISH VIEW, THOSE WHICH THEY SUGGEST) HE COULD THEN CALL FOR A SUMMIT MEETING.

4. CHRISTENSEN FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONCENTRATE ON OBTAINING PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COORDINATED EC ENERGY POLICY, BUT ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH FRENCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE ECG. SO LONG AS FRANCE REMAINS OUTSIDE OF THE ECG, HE FEARED THIS WOULD BE A DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

5. IN SPECULATING ON APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE NEXT EC SUMMIT, CHRISTENSEN THOUGHT THAT CONDITIONS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RIGHT FOR USEFUL DISCUSSIONS AT THE SUMMIT ON KEY ECONOMIC ISSUES UNTIL NEXT APRIL. HE THEREFORE PERSONALLY HOPED THAT A WAY WOULD BE FOUND TO BLUNT GISCARD'S INITIATIVE FOR A SUMMIT THIS FALL WITHOUT DAMAGING HIS SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY COOPERATION.

6. COMMENT. HARTLING HAS BEEN FIGHTING NIGHT AND DAY TO MAINTAIN HIS GOVERNMENT FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS AND HE WILL PROBABLY BE LARGELY PREOCCUPIED -- AND NOT FAR FROM EXHAUSTION -- WHEN HE MAKE THE TRIP TO PARIS. IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE US IF HIS CONTRIBUTION WAS CHIEFLY ONE OF LISTENING TO HIS COLLEAGUES, ALTHOUGH HE MAY WELL SET FORTH THE CONDITIONS FOR A SUMMIT WHICH CHRISTENSEN SUGGESTS AND WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, CHRISTENSEN AND HARTLING HAD DISCUSSED.
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